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ORIGINAL

LATIN AMERICA

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ARGENTINE ENVOY AT HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING DENIES CHARGES

PY081715Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1308 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Geneva, 8 Mar--Argentine Ambassador Gabriel Martinez, who is attending the UN Human Rights Commission meeting, categorically denied that human rights are violated in Argentina and requested that the 32 member countries, particularly some of our Western friends, do not try to impose on Argentina false schemes which may be a coverup for new and alleged forms of neocolonialism.

Martinez emphasized that these accusations overlook the fact that terrorists and criminals have violated the basic rights of the people and that the measures taken by the Argentine Government are aimed at protecting all citizens of the Argentine Republic. In this regard, he said that thousands of refugees have been denied residence in the United States because of ideological reasons.

The commission, which met behind closed doors, discussed the charges submitted against nine countries, including Argentina.

During the debate, a bitter argument developed between the delegates of the United States and the USSR, the two countries accusing each other of violating human rights.

Argentine Position Outlined

PY101550Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Mar--Argentina has stated its position during the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva. The commission, in answer to questions made by the Swedish, Austrian, French and U.S. delegations, stated that the situation in Argentina does not reveal a constant and systematic violation of human rights.

The Argentine delegation stated that:

1. Argentina has strictly respected the procedures of the UN resolutions, answering with all available information about different situations and concrete cases, after a thorough investigation of each accusation or charge made by different sources and sent to Argentina through the UN General Secretariat.

2. The United Nations has been informed of the legal-institutional situation in which our process of national reorganization is being carried out, showing in this manner that the charges made are seeking to present a distorted picture of the Argentine situation.

3. Our government has not removed itself from any of the legal institutional regulations which deal with internal disturbances, as included in our national constitution to guarantee order and security. In view of violence and terrorism, which is a challenge to the full enforcement of human rights, our government tries to protect all people living in the country, whether nationals or foreigners.

4. There is a double standard on human rights in the selection of accusations in relation to the actual facts.

These always refer to developing countries in order to satisfy so-called international public opinion, created and fed by news media which belong to or are controlled by a limited number of developed countries, by supranational economic interests and sometimes even by individuals linked to international terrorism and subversion.

5. Another sign of this double standard is the fact that the highly developed countries completely forgot their responsibility to the international community regarding respect for the economic, social and cultural rights of the developing countries, to effectively achieve the so-called new international order, which is a basic condition for our countries to fully enjoy our political and civil rights.

6. For human rights activists, the blind and destructive violence created by terrorist criminals does not exist, because they do not recognize the thousands of innocent victims or their families. Their humanistic spirits are only concerned for those who are responsible for crimes or their families who in many cases are members of antisocial groups full of hatred or who present themselves as victims of ideological persecution. It is emphasized that this oblivious view clearly shows these governments not as defenders of order and security but as imposing, through repression, a violence which would not have existed any other way.

7. In our country, no one is under arrest due to special measures or by ordinary justice as a consequence of their ideas or political positions. The government does suppress, however, those terrorists who threaten peace and tranquillity in Argentina.

8. The United Nations must effectively fulfill its role as coordinator in the efforts of international cooperation on matters of defense and promotion of human rights, whether they be civil, political, economic, social or cultural in nature, and this must be carried out by all states by respecting the basic principles included in the charter.

SIXTH LIST IDENTIFIES 325 MORE DETAINEES

PY110315Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2235 GMT 10 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 10 Mar--The Interior Ministry released today a new list of detainees at the disposal of the executive branch, which is made up of 325 people who were in jail in Resistencia, Chaco, as of 22 February. This is the sixth list released so far and, with it, the number of people in this status whose names have been released is 2,996.

CHILEAN DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR BORDER TALKS

PY132246Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2050 GMT 13 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Mar--The Chilean military delegation, which along with our delegation comprises the mixed commission in charge of implementing the operation of another commission to negotiate the overall solution of the southern border conflict, arrived at Ezeiza International Airport at 1730. The delegation is headed by Gen Joaquin Ramirez Pineda and is made up of Rear Adm Christian Storaker Pozo, Capt John Howard Baralesque and two advisers.

PRIVATE SECTOR REACTS TO U.S. TIN DUMPING

PY140300Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Mar 78 PY

[Text] A spokesman for Bolivian private enterprise has voiced an opinion regarding the announcement made by the United States to sell part of its strategic tin reserves. Marcelo Perez, president of the Confederation of Private Enterprises, said that the announcement made by the United States constitutes economic aggression against Bolivia and is a form of violation of human rights which is in total contradiction to the policies announced by President Jimmy Carter when he assumed office.

Marcelo Perez, head of the private enterprises, said that during World War II Bolivia did not hesitate to fulfill its role in the defense of democracy, going to the extreme of selling tin at a much lower price than the international price at that time. Perez believes that this decision represented the attitude of all Bolivians because lending the strength of the economy was a contribution to democracy. He then said that we are now looking at the other side of the problem or the other side of the coin, when the United States ignores a previous ally and now seeks to choke Bolivia with a product which came from it to help the United States.

Perez also said that the private enterprises believe that it is not right for Bolivia to suffer economic aggression of the type being carried out by the United States which will prevent tin from bringing a just price. He said that because of the announcement made by the United States to gradually sell 45,000 metric tons of this mineral, the price in the market has already fallen and that every penny which Bolivia loses affects the economy and the welfare of all the Bolivian people, particularly the workers.

In the meantime, Minister of Mining and Metallurgy Ernesto Camacho said with regard to the sale by the United States of 45,000 metric tons of tin that Bolivia will take a firm stand in defense of its main raw material. He also said that the basic guidelines for this defense will be discussed tomorrow morning during a meeting of the Bolivian advisory council to the International Tin Council, the mining minister and President Banzer in order to outline an effective policy for Bolivia to deal with the U.S. decision. We reiterate that the national government will discuss tomorrow the policies to be outlined with regard to the American announcement to sell 45,000 metric tons of tin.

Bolivian public opinion feels that the sale of 45,000 metric tons of tin is contrary to the interests of the country.

It is worth pointing out as an example that the price of tin was decreased 14 points [words indistinct], which is the lowest of the first 3 months of this year. The price decrease has created great concern [words indistinct] medium and small mines of the country. They agreed that low prices are contrary to the interests of the country and that if prices continue to decrease the country's economy will really be affected with serious consequences to future national development.

The members of the national mining chamber said that the decrease of tin prices is the result of the U.S. decision to sell 45,000 metric tons of that mineral. They also said that Bolivia must take a firm stand for the real defense of our raw materials and particularly reject the U.S. decision to sell the mineral. They said that the national government must submit a strong protest.

FIGURES ON 1977 MINERAL EXPORTS REPORTED

PY090300Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0225 GMT 9 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 8 Mar--Bolivia exported minerals--both concentrates and metals--worth approximately $500 million in 1977, according to preliminary official statistical data.

LATIN was informed at the Department of Economic Studies and Statistics of the Mines and Metallurgy Ministry that last year's sales were 29.5 percent higher than 1976, which was equivalent to $379 million.

Tin accounted for a major part of exports, since Bolivia is the world's second leading producer. Exports of concentrates totaled $192,866,627, while sales of metallic tin totaled $133,786,422. The preliminary report notes that these sales figures correspond to 18,377,090 kg and 12,478,075 kg of fine tin, respectively. These figures show a 10.3-percent decrease in the sale of tin concentrates in relation to 1976 but a 25.6-percent increase in its economic value as a result of price increases in the international market. According to the sources, the data processed by the official group were taken from export permits.

Mineral exports originated mainly from nationalized mining enterprises controlled by the Mining Corporation of Bolivia, with sales totalling more than $217 million in 1977.

Privately administered medium-scale mining recorded sales of almost $69 million, while small cooperatives' sales totaled more than $60 million.

Tin processed in state-owned foundries--in addition to antimony, bismuth, and lead and tin alloys--reached $144 million in exports, an increase of 76 percent over 1976, the sources added.

Preliminary official statistics indicated the United States as the world's largest buyer of Bolivian minerals. During 1977, the United States bought approximately $202 million in tin, copper, lead, zinc, wolfram, silver, bismuth and other minerals. The U.S. purchases increased 10.6 percent over 1976, when its purchases reached $166,980.713.

According to the report, England held its position as the second largest buyer of Bolivian minerals, with purchases totaling $74,879,003. According to statistics, the United Kingdom increased its purchases 56.5 percent over those of 1976, when it had bought $49,115,219.

The third place was taken by the Soviet Union, whose purchases of Bolivian minerals--tin, lead and silver--increased 144.5 percent. According to the sources, the Soviet Union purhcased $17,112,421 worth of Bolivian minerals in 1976, while in 1977 its purchases totaled $41,841,794.

With Italy the case was similar. By merely purchasing $416,000 worth of tin it increased its purchases of Bolivian minerals by 570.9 percent.

Brazil was the best South American buyer of Bolivian minerals. It purchased almost $14 million worth of them, 66.1 percent more than in 1976. Chile was second with almost $7 million, closely followed by Argentina ($6.5 million), and Colombia ($3.9 million). Among the members of the Andean subregion, Bolivia sold a total of $7,913,209, with Colombia and Peru its largest markets in this area.

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSEMBLY TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST SECURITY LAW

PY110127Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The Bolivian Permanent Human Rights Assembly will launch a campaign designed to encourage the government to repeal decrees creating the state security law and the military zones in mining districts. This report was given to Cruz del Sur by the institution's president, Father Julio Tunini. He told us that the assembly would conduct a crusade advocating abolition of the military-peasant pact. These plans were approved during the last meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Permanent Assembly held in La Paz, in which some 20 delegates from assemblies in the interior participated.

Tunini also said that general elections cannot be held when there are certain limitations which violate human rights.

What is important, he stated, is that the next government rise to power with the support of the citizens. He added that completely clean elections should be held.

He also informed us that a politcal forum will be held during the second half of April with participation of the heads of all political groups. According to the Human Rights Assembly, the forum will be organized with the help of professionals, university students and journalists. Tunini stated that the forum's objective will be to discuss the ideologies and future electoral process. Tunini said that all the nation's existing political groups would be invited to participate in the forum.

PDCB OFFERED AS 'ALTERNATIVE' TO RIGHT, LEFT

PY131506Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1536 GMT 11 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 10 Mar--Christian Democracy is a valid political alternative between the government rightwing policy of Gen Juan Pereda and the leftwing infantilism of former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, according to a statement by a party leader today. Felix Vargas, provisional president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDCB], appeared to be certain that his party would officially proclaim Gen Rene Bernal as candidate for the presidency for the 9 July general elections.

Vargas added that the PDCB national convention would be held in La Paz within a week. The PDCB leader concluded: "We will offer a political alternative which will include social awareness, popular democratic participation, and economic development within a framework of constitutional liberties."

FSB DEMANDS BREAK OF RELATIONS WITH CHILE

PY092130Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1643 GMT 9 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 9 Mar--The Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] began its campaign for the 9 July elections today by demanding that Bolivia break relations with Chile and join the nonalined countries. The FSB electoral platform has indicated the need to organize "a peaceful march to our coast."

FRG TO PROVIDE $2 BILLION FOR XINGO DAM

PY131607Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Mar 78 p 7 PY

[Text] The FRG will invest $2 billion in the construction of a hydroelectric complex in Xingo, Pernanbuco State. This information was released yesterday by Brazilian businessmen who went to Germany together with President Geisel. According to their report, three of the main FRG banks--the Deutsche Bank, the Commerz Bank and the Dresdner Bank--have guaranteed the operation with total support from the German Government.

The Xingo hydroelectric project will be coordinated by Brown Bovery und Co. A.G., a West German branch of a multinational enterprise, with the participation of COSINOR (Northeastern Iron and Steel Company), which will invest purely Brazilian capital. The Xingo hydroelectric project will be able to produce 4 million kilowatts and it will be the third main Brazilian hydroelectric dam.

CHESF, the Sao Francisco hydroelectric company, views the construction of the Xingo dam in the canyon of the middle Sao Francisco River, 40 km upriver from the Paulo Alfonso complex, as providing the "greatest powerplant in history." The giant hydroelectric dam is still at the feasibility study stage and CHESF has not revealed its total cost so far. Among other things the initial stage of the Xingo project provides for diversion of the Sao Francisco River through tunnels drilled in the rock banks of the river, and construction of a 150-meter-high concrete dam. Due to its complexity ELETROBRAS [Brazilian Power Companies Inc.] decided to postpone construction of the Xingo dam in 1976, following a recommendation by CHESF itself, which believed that there would be a decline in the supply of power for the northeast beginning in 1979. Therefore, the CHESF believed that priority should be given to the Itaparica dam, downriver from the Paulo Alfonso complex, a smaller hydroelectric dam (1.5 million kilowatts in its first stage) which will go into operation in 1981.

FOREIGN RESERVES TO INCREASE BY $1 BILLION

PY131449Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Mar 78 p 28 PY

[Text] Brazil will close fiscal year 1978 with foreign reserves amounting to $8.2 billion, $1 billion more than last year. That was reported to some of the main international bankers by Brazilian Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen during the meetings he held this week in Germany, where he went as part of President Geisel's retinue.

According to the finance minister's estimates, this year Brazil will use $9.5 billion in the following manner: $5 billion from financial loans [emprestimos financeiros] in line with Resolution 63 and Law No 4,131), of which $2.5 billion will be provided by the public sector and $2.5 billion by private enterprise; the World Bank will loan $700 million; and the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] will supply $300 million, thus bringing the total figure to $1 billion. More than $1.5 billion will be used in suppliers' credit, and direct investments will provide $1 billion more. All of this adds up to the estimated figure of $9.5 billion. [figures as published]

At the same time the current account deficit (resulting from the negative trade balance and the cost of services) is estimated at $3.9 billion and amortization and payment of interest on foreign loans will be $4.6 billion, adding up to $8.5 billion. Therefore, the remaining $1 billion will go to increase the foreign reserves from $7.5 billion on 31 December 1977 to $8.2 billion in December 1978, strengthening Brazil's position as the biggest holder of foreign reserves after Venezuela, which is exporting 1.4 million barrels of oil per day.

According to end of February data, Brazil's foreign reserves are only $6.5 billion after a $700-million drop during the last 2 months. The finance minister considers this decline normal at the beginning of the year. In any case he believes in a swift recovery, especially at the beginning of the second half of the year, as happened last year.

In providing estimates on the outcome of this year's balance of payments (capital and current account movement), Mario Simonsen did not discuss the trade balance. Although he still believes that "there will be a surplus which will be more significant than last year's ($138 million)," he believes that to make forecasts at this point is risky.

The minister indicated that the agricultural export situation is still unknown (in any case there will be less than 1977), and it is difficult to foresee to what degree the increase in exports of manufactured products will help offset the possible decline of raw materials exports.

AZEREDO DISCUSSES TRILATERAL PARANA TALKS

PY140053Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1637 GMT 13 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Mar--The Brazilian foreign minister stated here today that Brazil will state its "desire to negotiate and readiness for discussion" during the conference with Argentina and Paraguay on the exploitation of the Parana River. The Brazilian stand for the trilateral meeting was drawn up Sunday by President Ernesto Geisel, Mining Minister Shigeaki Ueki and Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira, during a meeting which lasted 1 and 1/2 hours. The conference will begin Tuesday in Asuncion.

During a press briefing, Azeredo emphasized Brasil's determination to talk and negotiate the exploitation of the Parana River waters, but admitted that he did not know whether the meeting would prove decisive. With regard to reports from Buenos Aires concerning a possible abandonment of the Corpus Dam project by the Argentine Government, Azeredo said it was an "exclusively Argentine" problem.

PHYSICIST SAYS DOMESTIC NUCLEAR PROGRAM NEEDED

PY131415Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 Mar 78 p 18 PY

[Text] Jose Goldenberg, director of the Sao Paulo University Institute of Physics, stated yesterday that "the Netherlands' refusal to supply enriched uranium to Brazil is very serious and must be thought about, as it places us in a very difficult position."

The scientist, who returned from a trip to the United States, indicated that "Brazil's other chances of obtaining uranium are France and England, which may increase its production capacity.

The other possibility would be the USSR, but this would be a paradox for Brazil, a country which is seeking its independence."

Professor Goldenberg stressed that "in the best of cases, Germany could transfer to us part of its URENCO quota, but how long could this be done? The decision of the Netherlands merely strengthens the view of the Brazilian scientific community that nuclear technology should be developed within the country. The Brazilian Society of Physics presented a plan for the development of nuclear technology 4 years ago. Had we started our research then, we would be very advanced today. "The one hope with reference to the centrifigal jet (jet nozzle) system is that Germany has advanced in the field. This would be greatly favorable to us in the present circumstances. However, since I am not acquainted with the technology used by Germany or any other developments of this technique, I am still worried.

As to thorium, Goldenberg praised the agreement signed with Germany on developing the use of this material as nuclear fuel. "Thorium cannot yet replace uranium. As far as I know, the technology for utilization of this material as a source of energy is just being developed. The agreement with Germany is bound to be a long-term one because it will require a good deal of research." Professor Goldenberg indicated that "the Brazilian scientific community offered its plan to the government and the plan was not favorably received. Now we can only wait to see what the government has to say. I believe the government must reexamine all possibilities within this totally new situation. In 1974 or 1975, this would have never happened and the nuclear agreement would have presented no problems with regard to fuel supply." He recalled that the plan of the Brazilian Society of Physics provided for the use of $10 million at a rate of $1 million per year for a period of 10 years for the development of a national technology aimed at the generation of energy through the use of uranium or thorium.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OFFICIAL BEGINS VISIT

PY131444Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Mar 78 p 15 PY

[Excerpt] The number of reports received by Amnesty International concerning the torturing of political prisoners in Brazil has declined over the past 18 months. The legal situation, however, has remained the same since the early stages of the 1964 revolution, and Amnesty International is especially concerned "over the lack of individual guarantees, such as the right to habeas corpus." This was reported yesterday by Amnesty International Secretary General for Latin America Patricia Feaney, a 27-year-old Briton who has been in Brazil for the past 13 days.

INTERVIEW WITH OFFICER UNDER HOUSE ARREST

PY140204Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Mar 78 p 4 PY

[Undated text of interview with Lt Col Tarcisio Nunes Ferreira, commander of 13th Armored Infantry Battallion, in Ponta Grossa, Parana]

[Excerpts] [Question] Are the armed forces shouldering the burden which they must?

[Answer] Exactly. The armed forces based their legitimacy on the nation's aspirations. The aspirations of the Brazilian people legitimates our actions and our behavior and there can be no separation here. Much is said about the union within the armed forces as the foundation for any system or any progress, but this is a wrong approach. The only union which must never fail to exist is that of the armed forces and the people, because the people are the source of the armed forces' legitimacy. Furthermore, on the armed forces' shoulders are being placed all the blame for all the dissatisfaction and the mistakes which can be found, although we are not even consulted on anything. The president has decided not to consult with the armed forces on anything, in the area of politics, military matters, or even national security. He is acting all by himself, above the army. One instance of this is the case of Gen Edoardo d'Avila Mello, commander of the 2d Army in Sao Paulo. Geisel announced the dismissal of General d'Avila in the newspapers without having conducted consultations or investigations in blatant disrespect for D'Avila's position.

[Question] Would there be any other officers with the same opinion?

[Answer] I do not know but I would be glad if it were so. I believe that it would be good if the generals decided to speak out. When the generals do not speak, after a while the turn comes for the colonels to speak and if they fail to do so, then the majors should. Somebody must speak out. In 1930, the lieutenants spoke [a reference to the uprising of lieutenants to bring Getulio Vargas to power].

[Question] Would there be a split between the generals and the group of lower-ranking officers?

[Amswer] Not in their way of thinking. I am convinced that the generals have a democratic way of thinking, but they cannot manage to free themselves from the obligations of their posts and functions because of personal scruples. So I believe that the government takes advantage of the good training of the armed forces cadres which are disciplined, orderly and responsible. So they have their inhibitions to break the rules of discipline, rank and good training. The government knows that the armed forces have difficulties in breaking those rules.

[Question] Are you not subverting military discipline with your attitude?

[Answer] It would be so if we used channels other than those available to us to speak. For instance, if my subordinates were to bring to me their concern and I found it valid, I would have the obligation of taking their concern to higher echelons. So everyone has his proper channel for speaking and his opportunity to speak. Obviously, in an extreme case, the aspects of legitimacy prevail over the legal aspects. There comes a time when you can no longer ask for discipline. We should only recall the 1964 movement. Can you imagine that if we were all attaching greater significance to what is legal rather than to what is legitimate, we would still be putting up with Joao and his gang? Is it not true? However, we did not hesitate a minute in rebelling against the hierarchy, against the president of the nation, once mere military discipline was not enough to hold us back. There was a value higher than discipline at stake: the moral value of our action.

[Question] How did the armed forces react to General Figueiredo's appointment?

[Answer] I believe that the reaction was negative, especially because of the method of his appointment. No one can agree to a president's having authority to appoint his successor without having to consult any sector of the nation but the palace officials who are under him. In fact, he listened only to his closest aides. There was no national consensus. There was only a consensus of his team, which is natural, especially in a team which has been purged, since the two dissidents--Ministers Frota and Severe Gomes--were dismissed. Hugo Abreu was dismissed later, that is, he dismissed those who opposed him. He did not listen to the nation. I consider this an abuse. I believe the president is a delegate of the nation in a normal process and of the revolutionary forces, in an abnormal process, but he is always a delegate for a term. He cannot have the authority to make decisions involving the next period by appointing his successor. This is the basic principle guiding his delegation. Thus, I believe this was a usurpation. The figure of General Figueiredo, who is an exceptional person to whom I am closely related, is not at stake. We are not judging him. What no one can really accept is the method used for his appointment.

[Question] Do you believe the 1964 revolution has been interrupted?

[Answer] No. The 1964 revolution has been distorted. We came out of a totalitarian process into which we were being led by a government overwhelmed by disorder and we entered a totalitarian process created by a government moved by excessive order. Order is not important in a society. What a society needs is harmony, not order. I keep my furniture, my animals, my livestock in order. What a society needs is harmony, so that order may stem naturally from everyone's responsible actions, from everyone's awareness that although his rights are restricted by the rights of others, he can enjoy them as much as he can.

[Question] Would you accept the Communist Party [CP]?

[Answer] No. I cannot accept the CP because this would be illogical. It would be like inviting a man who had vowed to steal my belongings into my house. I am not crazy. First of all, the CP is not properly a party. Its ultimate goal is to eliminate all other parties to set up the dictatorship of the proletariat. I cannot consider the CP a party because its very platform shows that it is not a party. I am not the first one who is saying this. I cannot agree with the CP's objective. There is no evidence in history supporting the contention that it is better to give the CP a legal status instead of letting it operate clandestinely. On the contrary, history has demonstrated that weak politicians have stimulated the CP in their campaigns in exchange for votes.

[Question] Then what are the armed forces' commitments?

[Answer] Indeed, I could not call these commitments legalist, but democratic. We do not have a major commitment with the law. We have a major commitment with the fatherland, with the nation. That is why I say that a law is questionable, because the AI-5 is in fact a law, the April package is a law, and I do not have any commitment to the April package.

Therefore, the armed forces are more concerned with the legitimacy than with the legality of the process. We overthrew the government only when it became evident that the process had become illegitimate. The Goulart government was illegal. There is a moment in which violating discipline can be justified for the sake of legitimacy. There are moments in which the code of ethical standards should be above the code of discipline. It is then necessary to violate discipline to strive for something which is above discipline: The best example of this was the 1964 movement. We all carried out an illegal action in 1964. We attacked a legally constituted government. Why? Because we regarded our action as legitimate because the government had acted beyond the spirit of the law.

LIBERAL COLONELS FORM PROCONSTITUTIONAL GROUP

PY140403Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2045 GMT 13 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 13 Mar--The weekly magazine VEJA today revealed the existence of a "Constitutionalist Democratic Military Movement" made up of liberal sectors of the army. According to the magazine, the movement is made up of a group of high-ranking officers concentrated in Rio de Janeiro "which was formed at the beginning of last year." The magazine explained that the movement has more than a dozen colonels who have expressed their desire to "take the army out of government activities and their disposition to contribute to the development of an open society according to models of the developed countries of the West." The announcement of the existence of this group was linked by the magazine to the speech and the remarks recently made by Lt Col Tarcisio Nunez Ferreira against the relative democracy advocated by President Ernesto Geisel and in support of a return to the state of law. According to the magazine, the group of colonels had to submit to Geisel, in March 1977, a document explaining the reasons for their concern. Rumors at that time in Rio de Janeiro indicated that the colonels' document sought to request from the president a wide political opening. The magazine pointed out that Colonel Nunes Ferreira himself "admitted having known of this group."

SUPREME COURT MEMBER CALLS FOR DEMOCRACY

PY131915Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Superior Military Tribunal [STM] Minister Gen Rodrigo Otavio has just declared that democratization is Brazil's foremost problem and that it must be solved immediately or the revolutionary process will become static. He added that the Brazilian revolutionary process tends to create institutions through reconciliation of the three branches of government. The STM minister called on all openminded, democratic Brazilians to join a common philosophy of government in order to consolidate a true state of rights. These remarks were made while analyzing the book "Brazilian Index"--published in Portuguese and English--which in part relates to the participation of Brazilian Army officers in politics.

The STM minister asserted that he believes it possible, through gradual and controlled relaxation of strong measures, to return to democratic normality, so that power ceases to be law and the law becomes power. He further said that he believes the time has come to begin implementing the process of full democratization--which our juridical conscience calls for, since the storm has blown away, and which a considerable sector of public opinion expects--as nourished by the successive manifestations of legendary revolutionaries like Jose Roberto de Almeida, Juarez Tavora, Cordeiro de Farias and others.

JUNTA MEMBER SAYS BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR DEPENDS ON PERU

PY1018O1Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0404 GMT 10 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 10 Mar--General Mendoza, member of the Chilean military junta, reiterated here today that the Bolivian aspiration for a sea outlet is in Peru's hands. At the same time, he said that Chile holds its offer to find a solution regarding the Bolivian problem.

Recently, General Mendoza made this comment in Ecuador, which caused annoyance in the Bolivian political sector, according to reports from La Paz.

General Mendoza said that Chile, as well as Peru, is compelled by the 1929 protocol to enter into consultations before a territory--in this case the Arica border area, where the corridor offered to Bolivia will go through--is granted to a third country. General Mendoza said that the Chilean proposal, before its acceptance, must have Peruvian approval.

Mendoza's Opinions Called 'Personal'

PY111810Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 11 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] A high government official said that the remarks made by carabineros General Director Cesar Mendoza regarding the Bolivian landlocked situation are strictly a personal opinion.

The official also said that it should not be forgotten that all major guidelines regarding international relations are the exclusive responsibility of the president. General Mendoza made his remarks during a press conference after a 11-day official visit to Ecuador.

SOCIALISTS ELECT PARTY LEADERS IN ALGIERS

LD131122Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] The Chilean Socialist Party, meeting in a plenary session in Algiers, has reelected Carlos Altamirano to the post of secretary general for a period of 3 years. Mr Almeyda, former foreign minister in the Popular Unity government, was appointed to the post of deputy secretary general.

The session of the Chilean Socialist Party Central Committee repeated the objectives of the struggle of the Chilean resistance against oppression of the people by the fascist junta. International action in favor of political prisoners was also discussed.

DISTURBANCES REPORTED IN SUCRE, NARINO DEPARTMENT

PA140120Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Sucre, Colombia--Strong security measures have been adopted in this municipality by Narino Department authorities as a result of street disorders. The people of this city were protesting against the increase in the cost of electricity, water and telephone services and, for this purposes, held protest marches in the different streets of the city which degenerated into stoning of several buildings. It was unofficially reported that several persons were arrested in the disturbances, but their number was not revealed. Combined army and police forces have now regained control of the capital. The Narino Department governorship said tonight that the public order situation in Sucre is under control.

INDUSTRIALISTS CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT POLICY

PA140055Y Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Mar 78 p 11 PA

[Article by Alba Lia Medina]

[Text] Medellin, 9 Mar--In a letter published in the National Industrialists Association's (ANDI) bimonthly magazine, the association's president, Fabio Echeverri Correa, resumed his harsh criticism of the government's development policies.

Echeverri Correa said: "We find that the current social and economic policy has lacked coherence and continuity and has even been contradictory, with little or no benefit for the nation's development and the community's welfare."

Echeverri Correa said that the problem of inflation has become an obsession and has led to neglect of the nation's many needs.

ANDI President Echeverri emphasized that the government's strategy has reduced the number of options available for fighting price increases to mechanisms of contraction which, unfortunately, have not had the expected success and, on the contrary, have seriously affected the vitality of the nation's economy.

The organization again stressed the need for harmonious development in the country involving both industrial and government sectors.

The ANDI president's letter states that "this is the proper time to meditate, to correct the errors of the past and, especially, to look to the future. The responsibility lies upon those who aspire to guide Colombia and demands that those who are ending their work be convinced that the best service they can give the nation is to acknowledge humbly their mistakes and receive with pride gratitude for their achievements.

LABOR CENTRALS PLAN NATIONWIDE STOPPAGE

PA132337Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 10 Mar 78 pp 1-a, 8-a PA

[Article by Jose Yepes Lema]

[Excerpt] The four labor centrals will call another nationwide civic stoppage, this time for an indefinite period, before President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen ends his term.

(The September 1977 nationwide civic stoppage lasted for 24 hours.)

The announcement was made by Victor Baena Lopez, General Labor Confederation (CGT) president, "because of President Lopez Michelsen's lack of interest in solving the workers' problems, while solving those of business owners, as was the case of the milk industry," he pointed out.

Baena Lopez, a labor leader from Antioquia Department and a teacher considered one of the most prominent young figures of the continent's labor movement, yesterday said that the National Trade Union Council has urgently called a meeting for Monday.

"We submitted a joint petition asking for solutions to the Colombian people's vital problems. However, we have not received an answer. On the other hand, the owners of dairy farms, transportation services and industries are having their problems solved, even against the people's best interests. This can no longer continue. The stoppage will be for an indefinite period and we are already organizing it," Baena Lopez said.

Tulio Emilio Cuevas Romero, Union of Workers of Colombia (UTC) president, also commented on the situation and said that "the milk price increase was criminal. We invite the people to protest, to react, so that the government will no longer continue to take advantage of their patience."

Furthermore, he said: "We have a bad administration, the most ominous in the country's history as far as solving the problems of the workers, the dispossessed and the poor. It seems as if there was a conspiracy against the people who criticize instead of using flattery. We want things to change whether they like it or not! The system is incapable of solving the problems of millions of people."

Cuevas Romero said that the National Trade Union Council will dot the I's and promised that "next week there will be definite news."

Cuevas Romero is a truck driver.

The main leaders of the Trade Union Confederation of Workers of Colombia (CSTC), among them CSTC President Juan Pastor Perez, a tailor, said: "We cannot stand it any longer. We have to do something, taking all the risks."

The three presidents of the confederations who were interviewed yesterday said that the reasons for calling the people to another indefinite nationwide civic stoppage are due to the continuous increase in the cost of living, the lack of communication between the government and the people and the lack of an answer to the labor centrals' document submitted to the government after last September's civic stoppage. Also, it will be a protest against "the government which has persecuted the trade unions and workers the most," Cuevas Romero indicated.

May Day Demonstration Planned

PA140314Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The four labor centrals--the General Labor Confederation [CGT], the Union of Workers of Colombia [UTC], the Trade Union Confederation of Workers of Colombian [CSTC] and the Confederation of Workers of Colombia [CTC]--will stage an unprecedented protest demonstration on 1 May to demand that the government of President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen provide concrete solutions to the difficult situation being experienced by the Colombian people.

The centrals, which are represented in the National Trade Union Council, began preparations for a new general strike against the spiraling cost of living and the government's indifference toward the working class.

Juan Pastor Perez, president of the leftist CSTC, revealed to this station the results of a meeting today held by the National Trade Union Council. [begin Perez recording] In today's meeting the National Trade Union Council thoroughly analyzed the economic, social and political situation being experienced by the Colombian working class. As a result, certain decisions were taken, among them being the approval of internal regulations which allow the National Trade Union Council to promote the struggle for the achievement of the interests of the working class.

One of the regulations calls for the formation of the National Labor Council, made up of the CGT, UTC, CSTC and CTC, which through the National Trade Union Council will direct the united actions of the working class and the Colombian workers in general. The same regulations establish that the National Labor Council will act independently of the political parties, the government, the employers and the church. [end recording]

BOMB EXPLODES IN VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE'S HOME

PA120307Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2100 GMT 11 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 11 Mar (AFP)--A high-powered bomb exploded at midnight Friday at the home of Oswaldo Hurtado, president of the Ecuadorean Christian Democratic Party and vice presidential candidate. It was reported in Quito that at the time of the explosion, Hurtado was in Guayaquil, 400 km South of Quito, participating in a political demonstration with the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP]. The CFP and the Christian Democrats have joined forces for the July presidential elections.

The bomb destroyed the garage and two cars and damaged the doors and windows of the house. Hurtado, who returned from Guayaquil today, demanded that Government Minister Col Bolivar Jarrin immediately apprehend the criminals. Otherwise, "the country might blame the oligarchy or the dictatorship, both of which I have denounced," he said.

Candidate Demands Protection

PA131528Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Dr Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea, the first official candidate [as heard] for the vice presidency of the Republic, has demanded protection from the government following an attack on his home over the weekend. Hurtado granted an interview to Radio Quito, during which he demanded security for his campaign and for the Ecuadorean citizens who are participating or will participate in the elections.

[begin Hurtado recording] Today is Sunday and the police have not shown up. I am concerned because, now that an electoral campaign has started and an attack has been made against a vice presidential candidate, the police are neglecting to make an investigation to discover who is responsible for the attack. As I have told the country's press, if on this occasion those responsible are not discovered and if no effective investigation is conducted to discover who they are, I assume that the government, or at least some part of the government, or someone who has influence on the police, is trying to block an investigation into these criminal acts for some reason.

[Question] Many candidates have talked about the existence of an official candidate. Even you have mentioned it in some of your statements to the media. Do you still feel that there is such an electoral danger?

[Answer] Throughout Ecuador's history, there has always been a candidate who has had the blessing of the government in power. This is a natural phenomenon in national and international politics. If you analyze the current candidacies, you will find that, obviously, neither Roldos nor I are official candidates. Perhaps not Roldos, but indeed several leaders of the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP] have been in prison. I myself have also been in jail. My house was bombed the day before yesterday. Neither Roldos nor I will be official candidates, but there will be an official candidate. Most probably, it will be Architect Sixto Duran. Duran has never been persecuted, attacked or insulted. Furthermore, the constitutional principles that were approved by the Ecuadorean people through a referendum have been reformed to eliminate a candidate. Who stands to benefit from this measure? The person who is regarded as Bucaram's principal adversary. Commonsense and logic lead one to believe that Duran will be the official candidate.

[Question] To conclude, Dr Hurtado, will Mr Asaad Bucaram, undisputed CFP leader, be a part of the three-man team during the campaign?

[Answer] No final decision has been adopted as to the role Bucaram will play during the campaign. However, in preliminary talks--and this is by no means official by the way--we have discussed the possibility of Bucaram's heading the campaign on the coast and of Julio Cesar Trujillo's heading it in the highlands. Thus, we would have two top leaders heading our electoral campaign. [end recording]

CONCENTRATION OF POPULAR FORCES NAMES CANDIDATE

PA111737Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Yesterday, the (Andrade) political command of the Concentration of Popular Forces officially announced the nomination of Jaime Roldos Aguilera, an attorney, as the group's candidate for the presidency of the Republic. This election slate should also include Dr Oswaldo Hurtado, the president of the Christian Democratic Party, as candidate for the vice presidency of the Republic. In confirming his nomination this morning, Roldos Aguilera said that he was accepting the candidacy proposed by the 20 commands [words indistinct] of his party and the other like organizations and that he has accepted the banner of popular renovation once held by other incorruptible hands, with the support of a people who desire structural changes, liberty and social justice. [sentence as heard] He said that his nomination is in response to the challenge posed by the dictatorship which, by excluding Bucaram, has tried to destroy a political movement that has demonstrated for 30 years that it is the strongest organization of struggle in defense of the oppressed and the excluded members of society.

Leaders Sees Political Future

PA131915Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Assad Bucaram, head of the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP], said in Guayaquil that he does not feel he has been definitely barred from seeking the presidency. He is convinced that once the Chamber of Deputies is installed, Congress itself will derogate the law on elections, which set up the obstacle preventing his participation in the elections.

In addition Bucaram stated very clearly during a speech, at a meeting held by the CFP in Guayaquil on Friday, that he will participate in the elections called by the next legally constituted government as a candidate for deputy. He predicted an overwhelming victory for his party in those elections as well as in those scheduled for 16 July. On this same point, Bucaram said that the law on elections will be torn apart at the national chamber and that it will be ripped to shreds and burned at Quito's Independence Square as [a symbol of] punishment for the dictatorship.

The CFP leader said that the crime that has been committed against him in connection with the forthcoming elections is a despicable trick and a disgrace that shames the country. He charged that it is the result of stupid advice from a racist foreign power which thinks that it has thwarted the people's desire for redress by participating in these dirty tricks. He said that this is also another stupid action by the oligarchies, which believe that he will drop dead if he does not run for president. But he will take to the streets again if necessary to uphold his rights as an Ecuadorean and the CFP's aspirations, which are the rights and aspirations of the Ecuadorean people.

LIBERAL PARTY NOMINATES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA1112017 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0030 GMT 11 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] In Guayaquil this morning the Liberal Party directorate confirmed the presidential nomination of Francisco Huerta Montalvo after his uncle, Raul Clemente Huerta, who was trying to get the nomination, decided to withdraw his name. After long debates, the situation was clarified for the Liberal Party and for the country in general. Everyone was prepared to witness a battle for the presidential nomination between Huerta Montalvo and Clemente Huerta, the latter a veteran politician and former presidential candidate in the 1956 elections whom some believed had a better chance in the 16 June elections. Clemente Huerta had said that various citizens' groups and political parties were supporting his candidacy in an effort to form what supposedly was to have been an invincible political front.

It was learned that the Concentration of Popular Forces [CPF], the party of populist leader Asaad Bucaram, who was disqualified as a presidential candidate by a new electoral law because Bucaram's parents had been born in Lebanon, was to have been a member of the front.

Political circles said that Clemente Huerta's bid for the candidacy collapsed because the demands made by the CFP in exchange for its support of his candidacy were considered to be excessive.

As a result of this, Huerta Montalvo, a 38-year-old physician from Guayaquil, received the nomination as the presidential candidate. Some of the party's elder members object to Huerta Montalvo's youth but, on the other hand, the young members are supporting him.

Huerta Montalvo was willing to decline his nomination in favor of his uncle if a strong political alliance with good possibilities of winning the elections could have been reached with the CFP. However, when the negotiations collapsed, Clemente Huerta was definitely declared out of the race and Huerta Montalvo had no opposition for the nomination.

The CFP's demands included, among other things, that a CFP member be the vice presidential candidate and that CFP members run as candidates in provinces and municipalities. Also, other demands were made concerning the formation of the cabinet in case of a victory.

BRIEFS

SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR--Salvador Rebica Pleitez, the new Salvadoran ambassador, presented his credentials this morning to members of the Supreme Council of Government at the National Palace. [Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Mar 78 PA]

ECUADOREAN CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS VISITS PERU

PA131945Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0117 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 12 Mar (LATIN)--Vice Adm Renan Olmedo Gonzalez, chief of naval operations of the Ecuadorean Navy, said here today that Ecuador is buying submarines "exclusively for defense purposes" and to replace obsolete naval equipment. Olmedo, who is here on a 6-day official visit, said that the Ecuadorean Navy "is at a technological disadvantage" vis-a-vis other countries, but, despite this, the government does not plan to purchase new units.

"If we ever need to replace our old ships, the specialized publications will report on it. There is no secret in this respect," he said in answer to a question. "The entire world knows about Ecuador's peaceful stand," he added in answer to another question.

The navy officer, who held a news conference at the Jorge Chavez international airport, said that he accepted the invitation from the Peruvian Navy "to strengthen even further our ties of friendship, understanding and brotherhood."

"It is a pleasure for me and for the Ecuadorean Navy to make this type of visit, particularly because we are aware of the feelings of the Peruvian Navy," Olmedo said, noting that this is the first invitation [of this type] from the Peruvian Navy. He said that we are very pleased, "as the sailors we are," because we know that "there is a very strong pan-American feeling" between the Peruvian and Ecuadorean navies.

Regarding the purchase of two submarines, Olmedo said that this is the first purchase of this type by his country's navy and that it is "very small" compared to the composition of other navies.

"Naturally, we have to replace our totally obsolete equipment, updating it as requested by modern technology, but all this is exclusively for defense purposes," he said.

The Ecuadorean Navy officer will meet tomorrow with President Francisco Morales Bermudez as part of other important visits on his agenda.

MINEWORKERS POSTPONE STRIKE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT WARNING

PA132000Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1839 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 13 Mar (LATIN)--The mineworkers of the U.S.-owned Southern Peru Copper Corporation have decided to postpone indefinitely the 10-day general strike they had called, it was reported today. The government had warned yesterday that the announced strike for salary increases and the rehiring of workers dismissed last year are illegal and that the workers would have to face the consequences.

A company spokesman told this agency today that the leaders of the mineworkers union had decided to give the government more time to meet their demands. The demands also include suspension of a decree enacted 2 years ago declaring the mining industry in a state of emergency and banning strikes.

Copper production would be seriously hampered by a strike at Southern Peru Copper Corporation because it exploits the large Toquepala mine and the neighboring refinery at Ilo, near the Chilean border. Toquepala produces 130,000 tons of copper a year.

WORKERS IN 43D DAY OF HUNGER STRIKE

PA140045Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1250 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[By Miguel Paredes]

[Excerpts] Lima, 13 Mar (LATIN)--The recently established Permanent Assembly for the Protection of Human Rights-Peru announced today that the 100 workers who were fired 8 months ago are in the 43d day of their hunger strike.

The association issued a press bulletin in which it disclosed that letters had been sent to President Francisco Morales Bermudez and Archbishop Juan Landazuri Ricketts "to seek an immediate solution to this critical situation."

In the letter to the president, the assembly said the strikers' lives "are in jeopardy and the consequences of this situation will fall not only upon those who took the decision but also upon the government leaders empowered to solve their problem."

"...We address you, Mr President, and the members of the Council of Ministers...asking you to find a solution to the demands of the dismissed workers who are on a hunger strike for the sake of human rights and their application in our country...," the letter added.

In a letter to Archbishop Landazuri, the assembly pointed out that the strike "is not a political demand" and asked for his "direct intervention" with the president to obtain the reinstatement not only of the workers on the hunger strike but of all those who were dismissed.

"...We hope to have your decided mediation for the prompt solution to the problem caused by the intransigence of those who hold and misuse power," the letter added.

The Permanent Assembly for the Protection of Human Rights-Peru was established a few days ago and is composed of important unions and federations, mostly leftist leaning.

Among the new organization's supporters are the powerful National Federation of Miners and Metalworkers, the General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP)--which is communist dominated--and the National Confederation of Workers (CNT)--which is affiliated with the Christian Democratic Party.

So far, there has been no answer by either the government or the archbishop.

PRESIDENT MIGHT INTERVENE AGAINST U.S. BOYCOTT OF PRODUCE

FL102200Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2125 GMT 10 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Mar (ANSA-INFORMEX)--President Jose Lopez-Portillo will directly contact North American authorities if the boycott of Mexican produce by Yanqui farmers continues, Salomon Faz Sanchez, president of the National Confederation of Private Property, stated here today. He noted that if the blockade persists, the losses would amount to nearly $400 million since Mexico has 29,000 hectares planted with produce, of which 400 tons are exported daily to the United States to cover the needs of the North American market. On another subject, he indicated that Mexico will suffer a $40 million loss because of the drought affecting the state of Sinaloa (in the northwest of the country), making it impossible for planting 300,000 hectares with sorgo, soya and rice.

OIL RESERVES REPORTED AT 20 BILLION BARRELS

FL042151Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2120 GMT 4 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Mar (ANSA-INFORMEX)--According to the latest bulletin put out by the energy sector, proven petroleum reserves in Mexico reach about 20 billion barrels and proven gas reserves are 30 billion barrels, figuring 5 thousand cubic feet of natural gas per barrel of crude petroleum.

The bulletin also points to the need to carry out a "bold and dynamic" policy and drill wells in new areas such as those found in the State of Yucatan and in the coastal zone of Quintana Roo.

In another area, in view of the upcoming visit to Mexico by North American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) Director Jorge Diaz Serrano yesterday confirmed his government's position in the sense that they will only sell gas to the United States at $2.50 per thousand cubic feet. "The talks have been suspended and there is no reason why our position should change," the PEMEX director emphasized.

PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER TO PAY VISIT

FL132150Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2125 GMT 13 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Mar (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Portugal's Prime Minister Mario Soares will arrive here next Wednesday. On Thursday, Soares, who is also secretary general of the Portuguese Socialist Party, will meet with the members of the Chamber of Deputies Permanent Commission and later in the day will give a press conference to representatives of the country's information services.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STUDIES U.S. SENATE DEVELOPMENTS

PA140359Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0337 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 13 Mar (LATIN)--The Panamanian Foreign Ministry today was studying U.S. Senate procedures regarding the new Panama Canal treaties, while a local afternoon newspaper said some senators were exasperating.

Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla met in his office with Vice President Gerardo Gonzalez and the head of the Panamanian negotiating team, Romulo Escobar, to study the situation. According to reports, one of the subjects broached was the position of certain U.S. congressmen on approving a "reservation" to the neutrality treaty which is part of the pacts signed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos. The document will be voted on Thursday and, according to Republican Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, there are enough votes for its ratification.

Also in Washington today, Sen Robert Byrd, Democratic from West Virginia, warned that although prospects have improved, it is not certain as yet that there is a two-thirds majority.

The "reservation" would call for new and separate negotiations related to the maintenance of U.S. troops on the Panamanian territory known as the Canal Zone after the year 2000.

LA REPUBLICA, the afternoon daily, said that "not everything has been exasperating these days." The newspaper added: "Great Britain and France, two of the most powerful nations on earth, last week gave Panama solid support after pointing out that the treaties' ratification is a problem which concerns the world."

MATUTINO PLEASED BY UK SUPPORT FOR TREATIES

PA112217Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 11 Mar 78 p 4-A PA

[Editorial: "Beyond the Amendments"]

[Excerpts] At the precise moment when the great battle for votes concerning the ratification of the treaties signed by the United States and Panama is intensifying in the U.S. Senate and when the stubborn opponents of the treaties are intensifying their delaying tactics as well as their congressional tricks in order to win victory for their unjust, unsuitable and discredited cause, there has arisen a voice which, despite the fact that it is removed from and strange to the Senate, has an overwhelming weight that derives from its origin.

The British House of Commons has issued a declaration of unrestricted support. This declaration, which has no historic precedent, was made by British Prime Minister James Callaghan, on behalf of the Panama Canal's second most important user.

The terms of the declaration leave no room for doubt. According to the communique, the United Kingdom has carefully studied the Torrijos-Carter treaties and unhesitatingly favors their approval since the treaties, according to the text of the treaties themselves, "will insure the maintenance of the canal as the largest international route and that it will be free and open to all nations."

The above important statement becomes more significant when one considers the fact that the declaration represents the way of thinking of one of the greatest nations of all times, The United Kingdom, which is justly considered the most important ally of the United States since its war of independence.

The stubborn senators who oppose the treaties cannot now argue that what they hear is the voice of the enemy or that the declaration was made by a poor country, by one of those belonging to the so-called Third World or to the nonalined movement. The declaration was made by the United Kingdom, traditionally alined with U.S. doctrines, interests and philosophies. These are factors to which even the deaf senators who refuse to listen to the voice of reason--and who listen only to monotonous nonsense--must pay attention.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WARN AGAINST ELECTION 'FARCE'

PA102303Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1506 GMT 10 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 10 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Panamanian Christian Democrats consider that the August elections will be "a repetition of the farce of 6 years ago" unless a minimum of guarantees are offered.

The party leaders called a press conference last night and released a communique in which they announced that "if within a reasonable time these minimum guarantees are not given, the Christian Democratic Party will abstain from participating in the coming elections." Those minimum guarantees refer to the impartiality of those controlling the election process, the abstention from using state resources to back official candidates and the political impartiality of the National Guard, which should refrain from backing candidates.

If these and other demands are not met, the Christian Democrats consider that "the coming elections will provide no political solution to the institutional crisis in the country as they will be one more farce aimed only at prolonging for 6 more years and, subsequently, perpetuating the military regime."

In August Panamanians are to elect 505 representatives of an assembly which, in turn, will choose the president of the republic in October.

For the time being, the only visible candidate with any possibility is present Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos.

PANAMENIST PARTY NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

PA140114Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Panamenist Party has decided not to participate in the upcoming elections, describing them as a farce and an efficient way for the government to perpetuate itself. A Panamenist communique orders its members and followers not to participate in the political campaign as either candidates or voters and urges other political parties to follow suit. The communique also criticizes the chief of government for not acknowledging the legality of political parties as a preliminary step in the democratization of the country.

BELIZE

CUBAN ENVOY EXPRESSES SUPPORT IN STRUGGLE WITH GUATEMALA

FL131610Y Port of Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Mar 78 p 2 FL

[Text] Bridgetown, 1 Mar (CANA)--Cuba yesterday reaffirmed its backing for the British colony of Belize now involved in a territorial dispute with Guatemala.

But Cuban Ambassador-designate to Barbados Dr Ivan Cesar Martinez said any Cuban military assistance to Belize in times of a crisis would hinge on a series of complex factors.

Dr Martinez put Cuba's position during an interview here with CANA. He is currently visiting Barbados for talks with government leaders and to present his credentials to Governor-General Sir Deighton Ward.

"The cause of Belize and the Belize people is a cause that has our total sympathy and our solidarity," Dr Martinez said.

"Our stand is that issue has been stated very clearly.... It is one of total support to the Belizean cause....Guatemala has no reason to claim the territory of Belize, much less to put a military threat against Belize," Dr Martinez added.

The Central American colony is being threatened with invasion by Guatemala if Britain grants independence prior to a settlement of the dispute.

Asked about possible Cuban military aid to Belize in the event of a Guatemalan invasion, Dr Martinez said "this depends on a lot of factors." He said such conditions were necessary because military aid implied that the government offering the aid was prepared to put its men in the field ready to die for the cause.

MEETING OF ECLA COMMITTEE PLANNED FOR APRIL

FL131630Y Belize City THE BELIZE TIMES IN English 5 Mar 78 p 16 FL

[Excerpts] The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee [CDCC], a permanent subsidiary of ECLA--the Economic Commission for Latin America--is to hold a series of meetings in Belize in April of this year. The timetable has been worked out and participants will come from the CARICOM countries and the Bahamas and will also include non-English speaking territories in the region, Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles.

Belize was chosen as the venue for the third session of the CDCC when the committee met in Santo Domingo last year. The United Nations is assisting in the conference by seconding personnel to help remove language barriers among the delegates during the sessions. Belize is an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America but its role so far has been mostly that of observer. THE NEW BELIZE, a government publication, says in its February issue just out of press that with the recognition of Belize as a bridge between the various countries of the Caribbean and Latin America, decisions will be taken at the April meeting of the CDCC, which will have binding effects on member countries of ECLA. THE NEW BELIZE further says that this break-through in sub-regional recognition assures Belize a voice in the affairs of the Caribbean and Latin America and brings us another step nearer to independence and territorial integrity. The conference will be held from April 4th to the 19th.

LA NACION CRITICIZES TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CUBA

PA120414Y San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 5 Mar 78 p 2-B PA

[Article by Rodrigo Mata Guier: "Treaty With Cuba"]

[Text] It is inconceivable for the present government--within a few weeks of relinquishing power--to unexpectedly attempt to negotiate a trade agreement through diplomatic channels with a country with which we have not established full diplomatic relations. Such is the case of the Trade agreement between Costa Rica and Cuba which the government promoted in the past few days.

Despite the fact that the foreign minister is thoroughly familiar with the difficulties of commercial relations with third countries, he scorned the officials of his own ministry and the technicians of the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce and appointed an official mission that was headed by Rodolf Solano Orfila, current COOPESA [not further identified] manager, and authorized to sign any agreement or trade treaty on behalf of Costa Rica. The result was complete failure due to the lack of foresight on the part of our foreign minister.

Solano Orfila himself said that it was not until he had arrived in Havana that he realized that the general agreement for Central American economic integration signed by the five Central American countries forbids its members to sign unilateral trade treaties with third countries (Chapter X, Article 25). However, he stated that he was pleased to return after at least signing a cultural agreement, something which, if it was that necessary, could have been signed by our consul general in Havana.

How could we at this point make fools of ourselves in international matters? How is it possible that the money of Costa Ricans could be wasted in such a deplorable manner? How can one explain the lack of consideration and respect for the new administration, which has insisted that in international affairs it will seek other ways to guarantee the well-being of the people of Costa Rica?

GUATEMALA

LUCAS GARCIA CONFIRMED AS PRESIDENT-ELECT

PA132020Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1920 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Decree issued by Guatemalan Congress on 13 March 1978]

[Text] Whereas, in the general elections for president and vice president of the republic on 5 March 1978 and in the recount of votes from those elections by the Congress of the republic none of the slates received an absolute majority of votes, the congress proceeded to choose between the two slates with the largest number of votes in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Article 166 of the constitution;

Whereas, in the election between the two slates with the largest number of votes in the 5 March 1978 elections, the congress of the republic cast an absolute majority of votes of the total number of deputies which comprise this body for the slate nominated by the coalition of the Revolutionary Party and the Democratic Institutional Party, made up of Brig Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia for president and Dr Francisco Villagram Kramer for vice president;

Whereas, the elected citizens, Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia and Dr Francisco Villagram Kramer, meet the requirements demanded in Article 166 of the constitution of the republic to exercise the offices of president and vice president and are not affected by Articles 184 and 185 of the constitution;

Therefore, based on the provisions of Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Article 166 of the constitution of the republic, Articles 103, 104 and 105 of the Political Parties and Electoral Law, Congress decrees:

Article 1. It proclaims Brig Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia the popularly elected president of the republic and Dr Francisco Villagram Kramer the vice president, to exercise those offices for the constitutional term from 1 July 1978 to 1 July 1982.

Article 2. The Congress of the republic, in solemn session on 1 July 1978, will swear in the president-elect and vice president-elect of the republic and will (?install) them in office. The elected citizens, the president of the republic and civilian and military authorities of the country shall be notified of this decree for the proper implementation.

Article 3. This decree shall enter into force immediately and will be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. To be issued to the executive branch for publication. Issued at the Legislative Palace in Guatemala City on 13 May 1978. [Signed] Rafael Eduardo Castillo Valdes, president

MLN March on Palace

PA140133Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0116 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--A demonstration in which 5,000 people are demanding that the Guatemalan presidency be given to defeated anticommunist candidate Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia is headed toward the government palace in Guatemala City. Peralta Azurdia himself is leading the demonstrators. He is being accompanied by the director general of the National Liberation Movement [MLN].

Peralta Azurdia was defeated in the secondary elections held today in the Guatemalan Congress, which selected as president General Romeo Lucas of the centrist Revolutionary Party-Democratic Institutional Party coalition.

MLN leader Mario Sandoval Alarcon, who is accompanying Peralta Azurdia, is currently vice president of the country.

Fearing disturbances, many downtown stores have closed.

The march started at Plaza de Italia and is headed north along 7th Avenue toward the government palace. Numerous police agents are stationed along the route.

Congress' Decision Protested

PA140250Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0205 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The leaders of the anticommunist National Liberation Movement [MLN] today said that they are prepared to carry out public demonstrations "until the government reverses the decision on the outrageous fraud which robbed us of power."

Led by Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia and Hector Aragon Quinones, the MLN presidential and vice presidential candidates respectively, and also by Mario Sandoval Alarcon, vice president of the republic and MLN national director, between 5,000 and 6,000 MLN members gathered in the square in front of the government palace.

The three above-mentioned leaders and other leaders were accompanied by their wives in the march. There were many women among the demonstrators, some carrying babies in their arms.

After holding a meeting in front of the city hall building, the anticommunist demonstrators, who were protesting against the election of "broad front" candidates Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia and Francisco Villagran Kramer, again met in front of the government palace.

According to the speakers, Congress made official the fraud carried out by the authorities by granting the presidency to General Lucas and the vice presidency to Villagran Kramer. With the cry of "fraud" and "we want power," the anticommunists, who began what according to their leaders would be continuous but peaceful struggle to obtain their goals, want to attain the annulment of the elections.

Police maintained a discreet vigilance and refrained from acting even though the demonstration's leaders admitted that "we do not have a permit. However, we do not have to ask for one in order to exercise our constitutional rights."

LUCAS SAYS HE WILL RENEW TIES WITH PANAMA

PA131715Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1504 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Today Gen Romeo Lucas, the apparent Guatemalan president-elect, announced that he will reestablish diplomatic relations with Panama when he takes office. "I do not have to pay for the actions of others," Lucas told ACAN-EFE regarding Guatemalan President Gen Kjell Laugerud's decision to break relations with the Panamanian Government becaus of its support for Belize's independence. Lucas added that he is a good friend of the Panamanian people and that a break with its government is unjustified.

The future Guatemalan ruler added that he plans to strengthen Guatemala's participation in the economic integration process in Central America. Lucas, candidate of a center-left coalition, is assured of proclamation as president-elect in the National Congress since he has received the support of 34 of the 61 deputies.

BAKERS STRIKE SETTLED THROUGH MINISTRY'S MEDIATION

PA131551Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA

[Text] As a result of mediation by the Ministry of Labor and Social Planning last Friday, a settlement of the bread issue was reached. It was agreed to suspend the bakers strike and immediately resume work at all capital bakery shops.

It was reported that the settlement was reached through talks between the interested parties with the minister and deputy minister of labor which were held on a day-to-day basis during the strike.

NICARAGUA

WOMAN CHARGED WITH GENERAL PEREZ' MURDER

PA101540Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 10 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpt] A graduate in law and social sciences identified as Nora Astorga de Jenkins, who is approximately 28 years old, has been accused by military authorities of being responsible for the atrocious assassination of General Perez Vega. The military officer, a member of the army general staff, died of blows to the head and knife wounds, according to the official report. His body was found in a house in the Altamira d'Este district, covered with a flag of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Husband Blames National Guard

PA111320Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1717 GMT 10 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 10 Mar (LATIN)--Today, the husband of Nora Astorga de Jenkins, in whose home the body of Gen Reinaldo Perez Vega, member of the National Guard general staff, was found, blamed the Anastasio Somoza regime "for her fate and any abuse against her, my two daughters and other relatives." He said this in a letter published today by the newspaper UNO MAS UNO. Jenkins also explained that, "with respect to malicious rumors trying to implicate me in the matter, because of my well-known anti-Somoza stand, I want to make it clear that I have not been in Nicaraguan territory since December 1974 because I have been studying in Mexico."

Jenkins made these statements in a letter addressed to the newspaper's managing editor, Manuel Becerra Acosta, and published today. He said that "she was completely innocent of the matter. At the same time the Nicaraguan regime is to be held responsible for her fate and any abuse which she, my two daughters and other relatives may suffer."

PCN DENOUNCES U.S. AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENTS

PA140419Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0215 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--"As a foreigner, he cannot express opinions on the opposition's actions or use that sort of language," Nicaraguan Conservative Party (PCN) spokesmen said in refuting a remark made by U.S. Ambassador Mauricio Solaun, who described the Nicaraguan opposition as "hysterical, conceited and full of complexes."

The remark was made by the diplomat during an informal conversation last weekend at a farewell party for Angel Rabasa, a U.S. Embassy official. Solaun was commenting on Nicaragua's political situation. The "incident" was reported today by Managua's information media.

During the conversation with Ramiro Sacasa, chief of the Constitutionalist Liberal Movement--a splinter group of the Nationalist Liberal Party now in power--Ambassador Solaun referred to the attitude of the opposition party during the recent businessmen's strike which sought to overthrow President Anastasio Somoza.

PCN political secretary Eduardo Chamorro Coronel believed that the U.S. ambassador had made an "unrealistic assessment of the national situation." "If we asked General Somoza to resign from the presidency, it is because we believe that he is no longer able to maintain peace or the credibility of his government's actions. The opposition seeks, within the constitutional system, to erradicate the national evil which we believe lies in Somozism, thereby preventing greater bloodshed," the Conservative spokesman said.

HAVANA REPORTS ETHIOPIAN NOTE ON PEACE CONDITIONS

PA122002Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Ethiopia has reiterated that peace in the Horn of Africa can be achieved only if Somalia renounces its expansionist plans. Ethiopia also rejected all attempts by the United States and its allies to restrict Ethiopian sovereignty and self-determination.

An official note [NoTA] released in Addis Ababa condemns the U.S. proposal to send foreign observers to Ethiopia. It states that it is no surprise now that the Somali invaders are suffering defeat after defeat that the Mogadiscio government and its accomplices are calling for a cease-fire in the Ogaden region. The note adds that, when Ethiopia was attacked by Somali forces, the imperialist powers provided all their support to the invader and used their news media to advertise its initial successes.

The note reiterates that Ethiopia does not harbor any feeling of hostility toward the sister people of Somalia.

PRC TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES 11 MARCH

OW131230Y Peking NCNA in English 1218 GMT 13 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Havana, March 12 (HSINHUA)--A Chinese Government trade delegation led by Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Wang Jun-sheng arrived here yesterday to sign the 1978 trade protocol between China and Cuba.

The delegation was welcomed by Cuban Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade Manuel Estefania Seoane and other officials of the ministry at the airport. Chinese Ambassador to Cuba Li Shan-i was also present on the occasion.

Negotiations on trade between the two countries for 1978 took place in Peking three months ago.

CUBAN COSMONAUT CANDIDATES TO BEGIN TRAINING

FL102325Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2233 GMT 10 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban candidates for cosmonauts will begin training on 20 March, it was announced today by cosmonaut Aleksey Ilyanov at a press conference held at the USSR flight center. Ilyanov, who is currently charged with the training of a group of cosmonauts at Star City, said that the candidates for cosmonauts from Bulgaria, Hungary, Cuba, Mongolia and Romania will arrive in Moscow between 13 and 16 March.

The cosmonaut candidates have already passed medical examinations and are now in their countries. Ilyanov pointed out that the students must have good knowledge of the Russian language to undertake these courses of study, especially terminology used in this field.

The training of this second class of cosmonauts will be divided into two phases. The first phase includes a general preparation dealing with global theory. During the second, each is designated a flight companion.

CEMA MEETING OF GEOLOGY EXPERTS OPENS

FL132005Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1703 GMT 13 Mar 78 FL

[Text] A meeting of CEMA experts aimed at stepping up geological protection efforts in Cuba began this morning at the Atlantico Hotel on Santa Maria del Mar Beach. Presiding is (F. Dack), an official of the CEMA Secretariat. Mines and Geology Vice Minister Oscar Lopez Rivera made the opening remarks at the meeting, which will end on Friday.

Our geologists and miners must tackle great tasks directed at finding the main sources of supply of raw materials for the ferrous and nonferrous steel industries as well as the construction industry, Lopez Rivera stated. This meeting is of great importance for the future of Cuba's mining industry since it will set up the guidelines for economic, scientific and technical cooperation in that sphere during the 1981-1990 period.

In his speech Lopez Rivera stated that our country will conduct studies on and effectively exploit all our natural resources. He said that bearing in mind that our continental shelf is not too deep and that it covers an area of more than 70,000 square kms, it is necessary to create the economic and material conditions for the geological assessment of mineral resources.

Elsewhere, Lopez Rivera referred to the expansion and reconstruction plans of nickel producing plants as well as the construction of new units, which will be done in cooperation with the Soviet Union and CEMA. Of equal importance to us, he stressed, is the development of other mineral resources such as copper, lead, zinc and phosphate rock.

MONTANE CLOSES CTC FESTIVAL EMULATION MEETING

FL132253Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 13 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its mass organizations department, made the closing remarks at the meeting held today at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] premises to assess the labor movement's efforts in the 11th [World Youth and Students] Festival emulation plan during 1977.

In his report to the plenary session, Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the CTC and member of the PCC Central Committee, pointed out that the trade union movement had fulfilled all commitments made in honor of the 11th festival. He explained how the vanguard movement had developed in the different sectors and pointed out the significance of the 60th anniversary of the October Revolution in the workers' efforts. He added that on 6 November 1977, Red Sunday, as part of the emulation plan, the workers had contributed more than 10 million volunteer hours, amounting to 5.75 million pesos in wages, which were donated to the 11th festival.

Among other topics, Veiga referred to the struggle for savings, which last year surpassed of the 100 million pesos compared to 1976, [as heard], and to the results of individual emulation. The CTC secretary general stated that in 1977, 12 provinces and the special municipality of Isle of Pines had fulfilled all goals of the festival emulation but that Holguin Province had not fulfilled the production goal.

In his closing remarks PCC Central Committee member Jesus Montane Oropesa expressed the party's recognition of the CTC and its trade unions for the accomplishments. Elsewhere, Montane referred to the development of the 11th festival emulation in the labor movement and the efforts made by workers to fulfill all their commitments. He also spoke about the decisive efforts that must be made in the 100-day drive to fulfill all harvest tasks as well as activities of cane agriculture and quality in production and services.

In closing Montane congratulated the trade unions and provinces selected as winners of the 11th festival emulation and stated that, on the year of the 14th congress, the CTC will raise very high the name of the working class for which Mella, Menendez, Camilo, Che and Lazaro Pena had struggled.

BRIEFS

VIETNAMESE YOUTH DELEGATION--A delegation of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth and of that country's festival preparatory committee has arrived in our country at the invitation of the festival international preparatory committee permanent commission. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 78 FL]

MAYARI TELEPHONE EXCHANGE--A telephone exchange, considered to be one of the most modern in the country, has been inaugurated in Mayari, Holguin Province. Pedro Guelmes Gonzalez, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of communications, presided at the dedication ceremony. The automatic telephone exchange makes direct dialing possible among several towns and municipalities of the northeastern part of the country. It services 800 lines and was built at a cost of over 700,000 pesos. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 78 FL]

VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IN MATANZAS--Ramon Delgado, Venezuelan ambassador to Cuba, accompanied by his wife, has visited the pharmaceutical museum and El Morrillo monument in Mantanzas Province. The visitor was briefed by Jose Cuetara, president of Matanzas' national patrimony commission, on the lives of the revolutionaries buried at El Morrillo. The Venezuelan diplomat also toured the Antonio Jose de Sucre rural basic secondary school in Jaguey Grande. During his stay in Matanzas, the Venezuelan ambassador was accompanied by Levis Capote, provincial director of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with peoples. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1725 GMT 11 Mar 78 FL]

MILITARY CHIEF REPORTS UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR BALAGUER

PA101215Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0250 GMT 10 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 9 Mar (EFE)--The secretary of state for the armed forces said today that the military branches will support any type of government that Dr Joaquin Balaguer establishes, if he is elected for the next 4-year term.

Lt Gen Juan Rene Beauchamps Javier told newsmen that the country must back the president in establishing the type of government he might want. He thus commented on Dr Balaguer's statement that if he is reelected he will have the government he dreamed of as a child and not the one circumstances have imposed.

The high-ranking officer said that Dr Balaguer "is the best intentioned Dominican that the republic has ever had." He added that the president "is not seeking anything because he is not interested in material goods."

Asked if the military men would support Balaguer if he expropriates foreign enterprises, Beauchamps Javier said that the armed forces gave him their full support when the president proposed the new agrarian laws which represented a great change in the country's landholding system.

MEMBERSHIP IN BANANA EXPORTING UNION COMPLETED

PA081727Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0343 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 8 Mar (AFP)--The Dominican Republic became the sixth member of the Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB) yesterday. Dominican Ambassador to Panama Victor Vinas Roman gave the Panamanian Foreign Ministry the ratification of the UPEB charter.

UPEB was founded in September 1974, but did not start operations until 1 February 1976. Until the present, it was only composed of five members: Costa Rica, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala and Panama. Its main achievement so far has been the establishment of the multinational Banana Marketing Corporation (COMUMBANA).

BRIEFS

VENEZUELAN SUGAR PURCHASE--Santo Domingo, 22 Feb (EFE)--This afternoon, Venezuela formalized an agreement to purchase 120,000 metric tons of sugar from the Dominican Republic. The sugar will be delivered during 1978. The purchase will result in income of $33 million for the Dominican Republic. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0250 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA]

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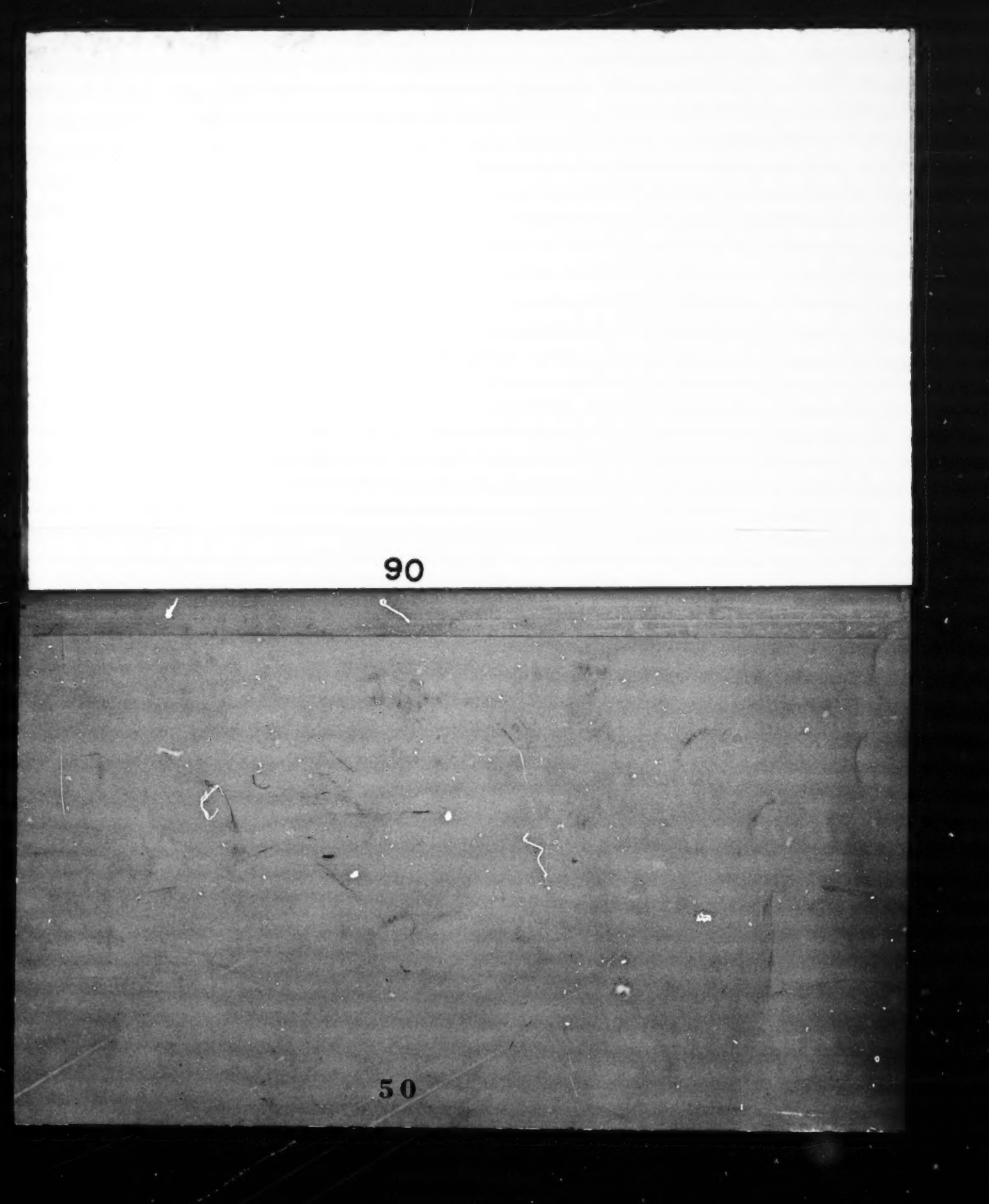
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